

House Resolution No. 81

Whereas, on Monday, January 20, 2003, citizens all across this great state and nation will proudly pause in observance of the life and achievements of the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., including the esteemed residents of Springfield, Missouri, who will hold an annual March which has been sponsored by the Springfield Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) since 1983; and

Whereas, in keeping with the ever-increasing importance placed on Martin Luther King Day observances, the Missouri State General Assembly will stand in historical adjournment from Thursday, January 16, 2003, until Tuesday, January 21, 2003; and

Whereas, on January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King, Jr., was born into an African-American family with a long tradition of religious leadership, education, and service, and into a southern society intent on persecuting, belittling, and demeaning him solely on the basis of his skin color; and

Whereas, a well-educated man who won the heart and love of the talented Coretta Scott, Martin Luther King, Jr., accepted the pastorate of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1954, after which time he began a long, complex journey that would lead him into the heart of the civil rights movement; and

Whereas, Martin Luther King, Jr., distinguished himself as a believer in nonviolent protest against societal wrongs; held five honorary degrees, Man of the Year status, and the Nobel Peace Prize; and endured more than twenty arrests, four assaults, and the bombing of his home before an assassin's bullet tragically ended his life in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously applaud the ongoing positive effects of the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and solemnly commend the Springfield Chapter of the NAACP for its efforts to bring to fruition for every member of society the tenets of liberty and justice he so eloquently expressed in the "I Have a Dream" speech delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the Springfield Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Offered by _____
Representative Bob Dixon
District No. 140

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 81, adopted January 16, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker